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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL
REPORT
FOR 1940.

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE

M.A., M.B., B.CH. (CANTAB)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year ended December 31st, 1940.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE.

CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending December 31st, 1940, on the Sanitary conditions and Administration of the Rural District.

As last year, the Ministry of Health in their Circular state that "the Minister has considered the desirability of the Reports being curtailed during the War, and he is satisfied that, while an entire discontinuance of annual reports during this period would not be in the interests of local government, the report might be without disadvantage materially shortened. Many items which usually appear may be omitted entirely, and those which are retained may be dealt with as briefly as possible."

I have therefore based this report on the headings and instructions contained in the Minister's Circular.

The area in acres is 32,170.

Population, 1931 Census : 8,644.

Population, mid-1940 : 9,170.

Number of inhabited houses, 1931 : 1,569.

Number of inhabited houses, mid-1940 : 1,880.

Rateable Value : £51,378.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £204.

There have not been any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health, or any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

The Medical Officer is J. M. Postlethwaite, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., (Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health. Part-time and not in general practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is W. H. Jackson, who is a whole-time officer.

There are no other Public Health Officers of the Rural District.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Royal Infirmary, Wigan. There also exists an efficient laboratory at Calderstones, Whalley, which is now receiving casualties.

The ambulance facilities are sufficient ; the ambulance is on contract, and is available for all ordinary cases. Infectious cases are conveyed by the ambulance of the Blackburn Fever Hospital, to which most of our severe infectious cases are sent.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are two District Nurses, who do good and efficient work.

There are no special Clinics apart from those run by the County, and no Public or Voluntary Hospitals belonging to the District.

The main occupations are cotton weaving, agriculture and stone quarrying.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in this district are very good ; there is no real shortage of houses, and those in being are of a good type.

During the year 2,475 houses have been inspected and the usual defects found, dampness, etc.

The attention of the owners has been drawn to these and in most cases they have been remedied.

The following are the main improvements to property :—

A new roof to one house and a shop.

Roofs and chimneys repaired at a number of houses.

New bedroom floors, skirting boards, doors, windows, gutters and spouting in various houses.

New concrete floors laid in the sculleries of three houses ; one building raised and made into a scullery.

Gable ends pointed and rebuilt and yard areas repaired.

These do not include repairs to property damaged by air raid.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These are inspected quarterly and the general condition was found to be good, the sheds and steddings being clean and scrubbed, the walls kept limewashed, and the floors and milk receptacles kept clean.

At one farm a new dairy, with reception, sterilising rooms and boiler house, was built.

At another farm one building has been converted into a dairy, the cowsheds remodelled, the scaffolds raised, floors concreted, drain openings led to the outside of the building, new windows fixed, and electric light installed in all the buildings.

MILK.

During the year 15 samples of milk were collected and sent away for examination. The result of the examination was satisfactory.

The number of cowkeepers is 309. The number of dairy farms is 218.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER OF 1936.

The number of persons licensed to produce milk under the above Order is :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	21

There is one Pasteurising plant and one licence issued for Pasteurising milk.

CHEESE AND MILK DAIRIES.

There are three dairies in the district, all of which are dealing with large quantities of milk daily.

These dairies are visited regularly, and they are generally found very clean.

SCHOOLS.

The schools are visited quarterly, and all of them were found very clean. The Wiswell School was closed from November 15th to December 2nd on account of the prevalence of Measles.

With the exception of Thornley all the schools have a water supply laid on from the public supply. Thornley has a supply from a spring and is conveyed from the spring to the school in pipes.

SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Chatburn, Downham and Worston are supplied from a covered reservoir, which is fed by springs on Pendle Hill.

Chipping and Thornley from an open reservoir fed by springs on Wolfenden Fell.

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Hurst Green and Stonyhurst from the Blackburn Corporation Waterworks. Some outlying farms get their supply from springs and streams.

Pendleton from springs on Pendle Hill.

Wiswell from an open reservoir fed from Whalley Moor.

Whalley from an open reservoir fed from Whalley Moor, and a supplementary supply from the Clitheroe Corporation Waterworks.

During the year a supply has been laid on to the Military Barracks at Barrow, also a supply from the Blackburn Corporation Waterworks has been laid on to Mitton Hall.

A supply has also been laid on to a farm at Chipping from a newly-sunk well.

The remaining water conditions are much the same as last year.

SEWERAGE.

There are sewage works at Chatburn, Barrow, Whalley and Stonyhurst. The method of disposal is by sprinklers and land irrigation. So far as I know all the works are in good working order, and the effluent at the outfall works is satisfactory.

The Townships of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Bowland-with-Leagram, Downham, Little Mitton, Thornley-with-Wheatley, Pendleton, Twiston and Worston are without a proper drainage system.

Extensions during the year are at the Military Barracks, Barrow, and the work of enlarging the sewage works at Barrow was completed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation at the end of 1940 was :—

Privy Closets	...	...	...	...	563
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	237
Fresh-water Closets	...	...	...	...	831
Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	...	304
Conversions during the year	...	...	Nil.		

SCAVENGING.

In some parts of the district the scavenging has been very unsatisfactory during the year.

The attention of certain Contractors has been drawn to the very unsatisfactory way in which the work was being done, and promises for better service were given, but still complaints kept coming along. I am afraid the only remedy is for this work to be done by direct labour. At nine villages the scavenging is done by contract, and the Contractors remove the refuse during the day in open carts.

There is no destructor in the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are all in a very good condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses and other premises which are registered for the production of food have all been visited and were found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Owing to all private slaughter-houses having to close down, only 20 inspections of these were made to the date of closing. The number of animals slaughtered during this period is :— Cattle, 339 ; Sheep, 1,087. Total : 1,426.

MEAT INSPECTION.

25 inspections of meat were made at shops and slaughter-houses. One whole carcase and 14 parts were found to be unfit for consumption and were destroyed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

							Males.	Females.
Live Births—Total	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	37
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	37
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	0
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	0	...	2	
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis :	Nil.							
Birth Rate, per 1,000 per annum :	10.8.							

CAUSES OF DEATH.

		Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES ...	... ... ... ...	38	42
Total ...	... ... ... ...	<hr/>80	
Phthisis ...	... ... ... ...	3	0
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... ...	1	0
Cancer ...	... ... ... ...	2	7
Diabetes ...	... ... ... ...	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	... ... ...	0	7
Heart Disease ...	... ... ...	9	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	... ...	3	1
Bronchitis ...	... ... ...	3	6
Pneumonia ...	... ... ...	1	1
Diphtheria ...	... ... ...	0	0
Measles ...	... ... ...	0	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	... ...	0	1
Diarrhoea ...	... ... ...	0	1
Digestive Diseases ...	... ...	4	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	... ...	1	0
Congenital Causes ...	... ...	1	0
Suicide ...	... ...	1	0
Senility ...	... ...	0	0
Violence, not suicide	... ...	5	3
Other defined diseases...	... ...	4	1
Influenza ...	... ...	0	0
Appendicitis ...	... ...	0	0
Premature Birth ...	... ...	0	1

Making a Death rate of 8.7 per 1,000 per annum.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births for the last year was 69.

		Males.	Females.
Clitheroe Sub-district	...	5	8
Whalley Sub-district	...	10	15
Chipping Sub-district	...	18	13
Making a Birth rate at the rate of 7.8 per 1,000 per annum.			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following infectious diseases were notified :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(This is not compulsorily notifiable.)

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1 male

Non-pulmonary 1 male, 3 females

Disinfectants were supplied and 15 rooms disinfected.

ANTHRAX.

Four cases occurred in the district during the year, one each at Chipping, Chatburn, Little Bowland and Whalley. The carcases were burned and the premises disinfected according to the Anthrax Orders.

Population : 9,170.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths is nil.

The notification of Tuberculosis is efficient, and there has been no action taken in respect of wilful neglect to notify nor is there any excessive incidence of mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

There has been no action taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE,

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.),
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),
F.R.I.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



